

## HHSC Implements Grouper 38/39 FAQ

- **Do we still install Grouper 39?**

Yes, every Grouper version should be updated annually on October 1 to ensure complete ICD 10 codes are captured. The claims that are paid through the APR-DRG Grouper software will pay using Grouper 38 logic and DRGs while being “mapped” to Grouper 39 ICD-10 code set. There is also a software setting to map automatically to most current version based on discharge dates which would avoid room for error in selecting the proper version.

- **Will the weights be recalculated with every Grouper version?**

HHSC will review and analyze the latest version released end of September for possible fiscal impact. Relative weight, MLOS and day thresholds will be recalculated based on the cost assignment of the DRGs when necessary. The new statistical table will be effective October 1 of the following year.

- **Were state fiscal year 2020 and state fiscal year 2021 claims that paid with Grouper 37 reprocessed by TMHP?**

State fiscal year 2021 claims that previously paid through Grouper 37 & 37.1 were reprocessed by TMHP using Grouper 36 logic and relative weights, mapping to the appropriate ICD-10 codes. Due to the quantity and settings for state fiscal year 2020, the ~17,000 claims are projected to be reprocessed by end of October 2021.

Update: State fiscal year 2020 claims were finalized on November 17, 2021.

- **Are we to assume now that V37 never really applied?**

Grouper 37 software, as well as any version, thereafter, will continue to be *applied* to always maintain the most current *ICD 10 code set*. In other words, Grouper 37 still applies to claims/encounters with discharge dates between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020, but only for the code set, not the payment logic (DRG assignment).

- **Will providers be notified in advance of Grouper version and relative weight changes?**

Yes, going forward providers will be given ample time for comments and questions prior to implementation of any changes to logic or to the relative weight table. Annual rate hearings will be held and open for comment at least 60 days prior to implementation.

- **Which claims were used for the analysis of the Grouper 38 statistical table?**

The most current and complete dataset used for state fiscal year 2022 claim weights and thresholds was state fiscal year 2019 claims and encounters.

- **Will the MCOs be notified or advised of changes to the payment methodology used by TMHP?**

HHSC cannot direct MCOs how to pay the encounters but strongly advise that they conduct their own analysis annually or follow the guidelines of TMHP used for fee for service claims. Also, an MCO notice will be published with the statistical data used for FFS claims processing. State fiscal year 2022 Grouper 38 MCO Notice was filed on October 4, 2021.

Current and previous versions of all SDA rates and APR DRG Grouper information are available on the [TMHP website](#).

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Judi Blue - [judi.blue@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:judi.blue@hhs.texas.gov)